

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 24, 2001 LB 543

those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Wehrbein's amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The amendment is adopted. Next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Tyson and Wehrbein would move to amend with AM1631. (Legislative Journal page 1632.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Tyson, are you handling that amendment?

SENATOR TYSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You're recognized to open.

SENATOR TYSON: Although, do you just need a rest for your voice, Roger? This...this amendment asks for spending authority only. It does not ask for General Funds. The Veterans Home that is currently being finished in Norfolk, Nebraska, is a \$16.1 million, the original budget amount, of which the state paid 35 percent and the federal government paid 65 percent. This amendment moves the spending authority forward to July 1 of this year in order that the home may open more quickly to accommodate a waiting list. The list is currently 23 that are approved and ready to move in. There is about 50 others who are eligible for service when the new facility opens but the current population max is 95. This will move that population max to 145. When that is fully implemented, there will still be a 20-plus person waiting list for the home. There is 95 residents now and when the operation is fully...when this facility is fully operational again, there will be about 25 people still on the waiting list. The move will start with a transition period this summer with a fully operational date of January 1, 2002. If the amendment is not approved, the entire move would be one year later and the waiting list would still be there, and if current trends are true, it would be higher yet. The projected cost of this is \$365,937. I feel kind of cheap after all these big numbers have been floating around here, but the projected